

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF MAY 19, 1925

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on May 19, 1925, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Frank E. Lutz in the chair, with 16 members and 11 visitors present.

The treasurer reported the receipt of \$50 from Mr. Frank Johnson in connection with the Society's contribution of \$150 towards the cost of preparing the New York State List of Insects.

On motion by Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Johnson was elected a life member.

Mr. Roland J. Hunter was elected a life member.

Mr. Davis was authorized to complete the arrangement with the New York Academy of Sciences for the joint contribution to the New York State List.

Mr. F. Martin Brown spoke on "*Pyrameis cardui*," a new host for *Bacillus entomotoxicans* of Duggar, with an exhibit of the butterfly, its caterpillar and parasites. From one chrysalis, an exceedingly infectious decoction was obtained which, diluted with 100 parts of water, was found to be fatal to squash bugs. It was suggested that the study of sickening caterpillars might lead to important results.

Mr. Davis made some "Remarks on the Orthoptera from the State of New York," illustrated by eight boxes of specimens in which 138 species were shown. This exhibit resulted from the work that had been done for the State List, started in 1913 by Prof. Bradley and now approaching completion. The work done in the meantime by Morse and by Blatchley was praised and some interesting features, like pink katydids, and unknown males of certain walking stick insects, were especially mentioned.

Mr. Bird spoke of "The Importation of an American species of Lepidoptera into Germany" with illustrations by specimens of *Papaipema horni*.

Mr. Davis exhibited a bound volume of the writing of Prof. Harry H. Knight.

Mr. Barber exhibited a pamphlet case which he had found useful.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 1925

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on October 6, 1925, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Frank E. Lutz in the chair, with 20 members and 8 visitors present.

The librarian reported accessions.

The death of Dr. Kudlich was announced by Mr. Davis. He and the secretary were instructed to prepare a resolution and to send a copy thereof to Dr. Kudlich's family.

A letter from the British Museum, deprecating the use of the wings of certain butterflies for jewelry was read.

Dr. W. J. Holland, present as a guest, spoke of his summer at Watch Hill, R. I., and especially of his success in collecting moths at night by sugaring and at light. At 77 years of age he had the pleasure of finding a moth he had never before seen alive and of being, for a brief time, lost in the woods.

Mr. Stecher, also present as a visitor and but lately arrived from Austria, described his visits to nearby localities and his first experience with the stinging hairs of the Saddleback caterpillar.

Mr. Bell had, besides his local collecting, spent twelve days in Alabama, on which he will report later.

Mr. Shoemaker spent a part of July at Guilford, N. Y., and part of September at Washington, D. C. Energetic collecting had added many Noctuids, Longhorns, and Cychrini to his collection. An interesting variety of *Donacia cincticornis* was found at Guilford.

Mr. Sherman's summer had been spent in the White Mts. The finding of *Carabus chamissonis* above the tree line on Mt. Adams was one result. Other agreeable summer incidents were meetings with Dr. Goding, Mr. Henshaw, Parshley and Morris.

Mr. Watson gave the following butterfly records of the past season which seemed worthy of mention:

Heodes thoe Boisduval, and *Hylephila phylocus* Drury, one fresh male of each at Van Cortlandt Park, New York City, September 6. *Catopsilia eubule* Linnaeus, one specimen at Central Park, New York City, August 31.

The following notes on the last mentioned species were furnished Mr. Watson by Mr. J. T. Nichols. Manasquan and Spring Lake, N. J., September 2, three individuals flying north. Mastie, N. Y., September 5, six individuals flying east.

Mr. Wm. T. Davis stated that he had spent about ten days in Southern New Jersey and would report later on his observations. He showed a very beautiful black male of the geometrid moth, *Nacophora quernaria* Smith and Abbott, found in the Clove Valley, June 19, 1925. This melanistic phase is known as *atrescens* Hulst. Mr. Davis stated that he remembered hearing at one of the early meetings of the New York Entomological Club, Mr. Henry Edwards, editor of *Papilio*, tell Mr. August Grote his surprise at finding *Eudamus lycidus* on Staten Island. Though *lycidus* was rare in 1881 it has since become quite a common species in parts of Staten Island. He further stated that Mr. Louis Ragot had found a considerable colony of *Euptoieta claudia* this past summer near Graniteville, Staten Island.

Mr. Woodruff's summer had been spent in northwestern Connecticut and at Karner, N. Y. Dragonflies and membracids had been his special prey but an interesting beetle, *Ochthebius benefossus*, had also been found.

Mr. Barber visited Nebraska, Ames, Iowa, to meet Prof. Knight, and Vienna, Va. During his western trip he had collected, besides Hemiptera, some new laboratory materials, cellulocin, Pyrex collecting tubes, and calcium cyanide, valuable as less deliquescent than the ordinary cyanide.

Messrs. Mutchler and Silver had been occupied during the past summer with entomology in boys' camps. Mr. Mutchler had also visited the Bruce Park Museum where Curator Howes has some interesting South American material from Kartabo.

Mr. Weiss had devoted some of his little summer leisure to Scarabs on which he will speak later.

Mr. Huntingdon, Mr. Farrelley, Mr. Sheridan, reported local collections, Mr. Angell's trips had extended to Montauk and Cook's Falls, Mr. Hall's to Wyoming, and each will furnish details later.

Mr. Nadler had made a collection of 2,000 Psocids, representing 35 species.

Mr. Swift, present as a visitor, had been in Costa Rica where, besides experiences with wasps, tarantulas, etc., he had enjoyed raising a botfly to maturity in his own leg.

Mr. Davis exhibited larvae of *Eristalis* found in a pool of water among tree roots.

Dr. Holland closed the meeting with an account of the Catalogue of Epipaschiinae on which he is at present engaged.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 1925

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on October 20, 1925, in the American Museum of Natural History; Dr. F. E. Lutz in the chair with 22 members and 7 visitors present.

Mr. Eben H. P. Squire was elected a member of the Society.

The meeting due on Election Day was omitted by consent.

Mr. Davis reported his visit earlier in the day with Mrs. A. T. Slosson and her desire to give her collection to the Museum at once.

Mr. Mutchler spoke of the B. Hamfelt collection of Palaeartetic Coleoptera for sale, also of the Zoological Record.

On motion the treasurer was authorized to purchase a copy of all the Insecta portion published since 1919.

Mr. Davis opened the "Symposium on the Field Station for the Study of Insects" by reading from his journal an account of the Decoration Day outing May 30 and 31 in the old barn between Tuxedo and Southfield, later replaced by the station building. He described Mr. Barber's gallinaceous method of collecting by scratching the surface of the rough rocky hillside and the surprising number of insects found among the grass roots; and the beauty of Spruce Pond, well hidden in the wooded mountains. He showed photographs of the locality and two boxes of the insects he had found. He also showed wasps' nests of various sizes and colors, evidently made by the same species in different years under the same stone, as an indication of a sort of homing instinct.

Mr. Barber spoke of his pleasant recollections of the days spent at the station somewhat tempered by memory of cold nights. Among the interesting insects he had found were *Xestocoris nitens*, *Antillocoris pallidus*, *Barce uhleri*, *Geocoris piceus* and *Nabis rufusculus*.

Mr. Woodruff found the season too cold and early for beating and sweeping but in the sorrel which abounded on the barren hillside he had found the leaf hopper *Stictocephala lutea* in extraordinary numbers. He exhibited also *Calophya nigripennis*, found on Sumac, the water bug *Microvelia*, and the dragonflies *Gomphus lividus* and *Tetragoneuria cynosura*.

Dr. Lutz spoke of the outdoor education which the station aimed to supply and particularly of the training trail about one half mile long with labeled trees, insects, etc., along it to the number of nearly 1,000, of which less than 150 were insects. The visitor after studying these labels followed a shorter testing trail where he found fifty numbered tags. His test was based upon the percentage of these he could correctly name and varied greatly. Newsboys scored 72, girl scouts 86, and once 99 was reached. Within the station building, in the garden near it, and elsewhere educational exhibits were made. Many interesting devices were developed during the summer to convey information. Easily remembered verses were used at times on the labels. Caterpillars on trees were surrounded by cylinders of celluloid. Tiger beetle burrows were indicated by boxes of mounted adults. An orchestra of crickets was illustrated by enlarged models to show the file that makes the song. It was interesting to note that even these delicate models were not damaged by vandalism, though thousands of boys visited the trail, and at the end of the season the trail, trampled by their feet, was barely 18 inches wide.

Dr. Sturtevant exhibited the recently introduced fly *Muscina pascuorum* and gave its record since 1922. It is now apparently not uncommon in New York City.

Mr. Woodruff spoke of finding the same fly in his house at Litchfield, Conn., October 19.

Mr. Olsen spoke of the Tamarisk insect.

Mr. Bird expressed his appreciation of the valuable work done by Dr. Lutz at the Field Station.

Mr. Mutchler reminded the members that if they did not desire the entire Zoological Record, they could purchase separately any single order in which they were interested.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 1925

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on November 17, 1925, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Frank E. Lutz in the chair with 22 members and 9 visitors present.

The President reported the receipt of the Slosson Collection in the museum and progress in labeling the specimens.

The Program Committee reported that Messrs. Hartzell and Bird would speak at the next meeting.

Mr. Leng announced the death on November 7 of H. W. Wenzel of Philadelphia.

Mr. Sherman announced the death of Fred C. Bowditch of Boston.

Mr. Schwarz read a paper, "Notes on the Bees of Rangeley, Maine," illustrated by specimens and by drawings of leaves cut by *Megachile*. He presented a summary of his notations regarding a nest of *Bombus terricola*, analyses of the leaf-cutting of *Megachile melanophæa*, comments on the attitude of rest assumed by this bee and certain others, observations regarding the matings of *Panniginus asteris* and certain evidences that had come to his attention of social tendencies manifested by male *Halictus*. He spoke at some length regarding a triungulin larva of a meloid beetle which he found on the thorax of an *Hylæus* bee and more briefly regarding a *Pseudagenia* which, when captured, was carrying a spider from which three pairs of legs had been amputated. By way of conclusion he told of a rather curious invasion of winged ants that on a certain day poured out in hordes from every fireplace in the hotel where he was stopping, notwithstanding the fact that these fireplaces had been in use frequently during his sojourn.

Dr. Felt, after pointing out the difficulties that result from the existence of 160,000 zoological genera without any indication in the names thereof of the class to which they belong, and the annual erection of about 1,500 more, proposed a plan, devised by S. C. Bishop and himself, for ameliorating the conditions stated. This plan involves the use of a prefix for each generic name indicating the phylum or class, and the order by their initial letters, and the family by letters arbitrarily assigned. Thus a prefix *Ic* would indicate Insecta Coleoptera, *Il* would indicate Insecta Lepidoptera; and *Icab* would indicate Insecta Coleoptera family Carabidæ. The generic name *Carabus* would be written *Icab Carabus* and would at once indicate the class, order, and family to which it belonged. A similar prefix would accomplish the same result for every zoological genus. Dr. Felt pointed out many secondary advantages, the elimination of the obnoxious prefix *Pseudo*, now so often used that already nearly 2,000 names begin with it, and the avoidance of substitutes for homonyms, among them.

Dr. Lutz thought some reflection upon the advantages and disadvantages, if any, of the proposal should precede discussion.

Mr. Davis thought it needless to take alarm at a condition which time would remedy and pointed out that in a well-studied group like Birds of North-eastern America the erection of new genera had ceased and that in the Orthoptera of the same region a similar result had been approximately reached.

Mr. Leng pointed out that part of the difficulty was removed in *Entomological News* by a parenthesis following the name including an abbreviation (col.) for example for Coleoptera.

Mr. Sherman said the solution of the difficulty of placing an unknown generic name had long been Scudder's, "Nomenclator Zoolozicus" Bull. 19, United States National Museum, which unfortunately had become practically out of print.